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- 27.—*The Causation and Prevention of Disease.* By JOHN PARKIN, M. D., late Medical Inspector for Cholera in the West Indies. London: John Churchill. 1859. 8vo. pp. 191.

It is impossible for one not professionally acquainted with its subject to do justice to this work, which is evidently the result of extensive research and profound thought, and which presents a large array of isolated facts, classified statistics, and tabular views. The author regards the malarious poison, which is the cause of numerous epidemics, as the result, not of chemical processes on the surface of the earth, but of volcanic action far beneath the surface. It is developed from low, marshy, and alluvial soil, because such soil is loosened and porous for a great depth, and thus gives free course to morbid exhalations from subterranean laboratories. It is not, however, developed from a surface permanently covered even with stagnant water, which presents an impassable barrier to such exhalations. Of course, the most obvious preventives of epidemic disease, are, in towns and cities, thorough drainage and paving; for individual dwellings, solid foundations and cellar-flooring; and for the open country, drainage, where practicable, and, under circumstances that do not admit of this, the permanent flooding of marshy districts. Where exposure is inevitable, the author regards carbonic acid, in whatever form it can best be made availing, as capable of neutralizing the malarious poison. The subject certainly claims the diligent attention of scientific men; and whatever may be thought of Dr. Parkin's theory, it is impossible that a work so full of carefully observed and analyzed facts should not throw important light on the causes and the preventives of infectious disease.

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- 28.—*Graham Lectures. Human Society: its Providential Structure, Relations, and Offices. Eight Lectures delivered at the Brooklyn Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.* By F. D. HUNTINGTON, D. D. New York: Robert Carter and Brothers. 1860. 8vo. pp. 307.

HUMAN society exists, not in virtue of any organizing capacity in its founders or its lawgivers, but by divine appointment. It has its essential God-given constitution, conditions, and laws, and these manifest the same attributes of creative power, wisdom, and love which are displayed in the structure and movements of the physical universe. The relations and inevitable tendencies of society are favorable to the development of individual character and to the progress of the race, and are pre-eminently adapted to the reception, the propagation, and the